

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY M/MS:RGMAYS,JR.

APPROVED BY M/MS:RGMAYS,JR.

EUR/EX - MR. WIGGINS (PHONE)

EB/AVP - MR. DUDLEY (DRAFT)

EB/EX - MISS WILSON (SUBS)

FRM/FM - W. SMITH (PHONE)

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230830

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS:OGEN, CA, ETRN

SUBJECT: OPRED - PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CUSTOMS

PRECLEARANCE STAFFS

REF : OTTAWA 2740

1. CITING US-CANADIAN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS, TREASURY DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH 49 ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS POSITIONS IN CANADA. EXCERPT FROM LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 19 FOLLOWS:

QTE THE CUSTOMS SERVICE INTENDS TO ACCORD THE SAME TYPE OF INSPECTIONS IN THE PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS AS ARE USED IN POST CLEARANCE. TO THIS END, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE PROPOSES TO CONCENTRATE ON HIGH RISK OR POTENTIALLY HIGH RISK PASSENGERS, WHILE ALLOWING LOW RISK PASSENGERS TO PROCEED WITH A CURSORY INSPECTION. TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE THAT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN AGREED UPON WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA UNDER THE

SECONDARY INSPECTION SCREENING CONFIGURATION, TO ALLOW CUSTOMS INSPECTORS TO PROPERLY DISCHARGE THEIR ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE INSURING THAT PASSENGERS ARE PROCESSED PROMPTLY, AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY AND SUFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE CANADIAN OPERATION CUSTOMS PROPOSES TO ADD 32 NEW POSITIONS AT TORONTO AND 17 NEW POSITIONS AT MONTREAL. WITHOUT THESE ADDITIONAL POSITIONS, IT WOULD VERY LIKELY CAUSE AN UNNECESSARY WEAKNESS IN THE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND OTHER CONTRABAND FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE CUSTOMS SERVICE BE ABLE TO PLAN ON ASSIGNING THE NEW PERSONNEL TO THE CANADIAN LOCATIONS ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 1, 1973. THEREFORE IT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED THAT APPROVAL FOR THE INCREASED OPRED CEILING IN CANADA BE EXPEDITED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. UNQTE

2. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF CHIEF OF MISSION CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL, INCLUDING IMPACT, IF ANY, ON MISSION ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES. KISSINGER

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